

National Catholic Theatre Conference PRODUCTION CALENDAR

Vol. 5

May 1946

No. 8

IN VARIOUS PLACES

ST. GENESIUS CONTRIBUTES ROBERT ROBBINS

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THIS SUMMER:

FORDHAM'S SEMINAR

RADIO WRITERS' WORKSHOP

1946 NCTC BULLETIN

VACATION - SERVICE BUREAU

THIS SUMMER

Catholic University announces a CBS Radio Writers' Workshop July 1-Aug. 10. For information you are requested to write: Speech & Drama Dept., Catholic University, Washington 17, D.C.

The Service Bureau, for the first time since 1941, will be closed for vacation - June 5 to June 30. We wish you a gleeful vacation too.

Another Bulletin is being planned for publication in September. Before you leave for vacation or summer school prepare your copy and have the cut of your best photograph ready for mailing, to insure your group's representation in the new magazine. From present indications, because of the large number of current member groups, copy cannot exceed 150 words. The screen of your cut should not be coarser than 100 line - 150 line will give an even better result. Two groups will be featured on each page, allowing 1/4 page for cut and 1/4 page for copy to each group. Father Schroeder munificently has offered to edit the magazine once more, and this issue can be truly impressive with the cooperation of member groups. Watch for Father Schroeder's recommendations and announcement of deadline.

Father Gannon has announced that Fordham University will offer a Summer Seminar of Theatre Practice under the direction of Albert McCleery from July 6 to August 14. Mr. McCleery, a paratrooper and more recently director of the G.I. University Theatre at Biarritz, served as Director of Dramatics at Fordham when WHO RIDE ON WHITE HORSES and the first of the ballet plays were produced. His column appears regularly in Stage.

Mr. McCleery has organized the Seminar on the conviction that it should present the very best professionals in close association with students. His staff bears out this principle: The Theatre as a Plastic Art - Jo Mielziner, Broadway's favorite designer and former NCTC Executive. Play Writing - Reginald Lawrence, who has just sold his third play to Theatre Guild (his recent experience in Chinese Theatre is reported in April Theatre Arts). Directing - Frances Sacco, director for many years at Finch Jr. College before her resignation last June to write COUNTY COURT, promised on Broadway this fall. Authoritative Speech - Edgar Kloten currently director of Fordham's own (Cont. - Col 1, Page 2)

FORDHAM'S SUMMER SEMINAR

producing group, who will be aided by visiting Russian, Japanese, Chinese, German, French, and South African authorities (the course will emphasize correct pronunciation of proper names in the news and in the dramatic literature and arts of the respective countries). Analysis and Appreciation of the Cinema, based on a selection of ten current films - Tom McGowan, Film Editor of Life and expert on documentary films. Model Making and Scene Painting - William Riba. Stagecraft and Lighting - Ralph McGowan, technical director at Amherst. Introduction to Theatre, a symposium conducted by Mr. McCleery which will offer 15 prominent lecturers successively.

One major production, to be designed by Jo Mielziner and directed by Albert McCleery, is planned. There will also be a living newspaper play and a ballet play to keep the triple stage theatre, arena theatre, and play box busy. Field trips twice a week to theatre exhibits, theatres, publishers, etc., are scheduled.

Fordham has geared its Seminar to theatre leadership and extends a cordial invitation, especially to GI's (the GI Bill of Rights applies). Graduate credit is offered for the courses.

ROBERT ROBBINS CONTRIBUTES

In searching for an artist who would symbolize NCTC's patron, Saint Genesius, we hoped Mr. Robbins - a liturgical artist and sculptor of note - could be persuaded to undertake the commission. His design was executed and delivered so promptly we were wordless to thank him when he appeared that evening at Blackfriars' MARY OF MAGDALA. The effectiveness of the design (to be seen first on an information brief now being printed) and Mr. Robbins' insistence that he wished to contribute it to the Conference multiply our need for thanks.

When you visit New York look for his statue of the Sacred Heart at the Carroll Club, and his St. Francis in the courtyard of the Church of the Epiphany.

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The Executive Board of NCTC will meet at Detroit June 6. Board members have been invited to attend Catholic Theatre of Detroit's Annual Dinner at which awards for the season will be distributed.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Mid-Atlantic Regional Chairman Helen Feeney reports wide interest in the meeting May 3-4 at the Carroll Club, 120 Madison Ave., New York. The Play Writing session immediately following dinner in the Club dining room will present a speakers' panel including Channing Pollock and Reginald Lawrence to represent the writers, Janet Cohn of Brandt & Brandt, NY's chief theatrical agents, and Estelle McElroy, teacher and supervisor of an annual original one-act play contest at Central H.S., Bridgeport. Father Nagle, Chairman, expects to be kept busy with questions from the floor. Frances Hidden, Albert McCleery, Dennis Gurney, Eileen Tighe, and other NY theatre notables will be guests. The session, following the afternoon's Inter-collegiate Debate sponsored by Mrs. Wyatt, will give Conference members a full day.

Saturday's session will begin as early as delegates can arrive at NBC Studios. Delegates are invited to witness a dress rehearsal at 8 a.m. followed by two aired shows, and the studio will be free for the discussion program at 10:30 which Courtenay Savage will chair. Tour of Radio City has been arranged for the delegates.

The Mid-West Play Festival, sponsored by the Central Region of NCTC and Loras Academy will present six one-year full-tuition scholarships to leading colleges in the area as best-acting awards. J. Harrison Wright of Kent University, Ohio will also determine which productions merit the Excellent, Very Good and Good Certificates. 157 out-of-town students are registered for the weekend May 3-5 but lack of hotel accommodations has cancelled six entries, leaving 13 scheduled. Clarke College's I REMEMBER MAMA, banquet and dance are extra attractions.

INTERNATIONAL DRAMA FESTIVAL

The First International Drama Festival and Pacific Drama Conference from Aug. 5 to Aug. 13 is announced at Victoria, British Columbia. If you are interested in participating, please write to Major L. Bullock-Webster, Executive Director, 506 Government St., Victoria, for information. The closing date for entries is June 15, 1946.

CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT - MAY and JUNE

Alton, Ill. - Cue Club of Marquette H. S. found the "more serious" sequel for its EVER SINCE EVE in OLD DOC to be presented May 20.

Burlington, Wis. - St. Mary High Thespian Troupe offers two evenings of student directed 1-acts May 7 and 14: ALICE BLUE GOWN, A FRIEND AT COURT, A MESSAGE FROM KHUFU, SUMMONS OF SARIEL, and THE BLUE TEAPOT.

Chicago - Grex Guild in evening performances May 10 and 12 offers MOOR BORN, the Bronte drama, at Rosary College.

- Laetare Players, Mundelein College, in their third major production this season: ALICE SIT BY THE FIRE. Recitals by Senior Drama Students supplement the month's program.

- For the Senior Play early in May, Loretto Academy Players offer EVERY FAMILY HAS ONE. Male roles will be played by St. Rita's H.S. students.

- Loyola Community Theatre is topping a season of plays and lectures with LADIES IN RETIREMENT this month.

- St. Xavier College Theatre Guild has solicited the help of the entire college and academy in the original production of GREEN ARE THE YEARS to celebrate the centennial of the Sisters of Mercy in Chicago and the founding of St. Xavier Academy. Matinee and evening performances May 7 thru 10. Helen Crowe is directing.

Convent, N.J. - IPHIGENIA IN TAURIS marks the return of College of St. Elizabeth to regular production of Greek plays in the outdoor theatre. Juana de Laban, Yale Drama School graduate and Dance Fellow, directs the complete production. May 11-12 (or 18-19 if 11-12 are rainy). Davenport - Freshman Cameo Players entertain Eighth Grade Day with three 1-act plays; Sophomores contribute verse choir numbers to the Mothers' Day program, and Juniors present AROUND THE CLOCK WITH CLAIRE for final production this season.

- Marycrest College Players present Barrie's ALICE SIT BY THE FIRE, May 19 and 20, evenings.

- St. Ambrose Academy Dramatic Guild has tentatively scheduled WHAT HAPPENED TO JONES for May 14 and 15.

Detroit - SEVEN SISTERS is the final production of Catholic Theatre of Detroit's season, May 30-31 and June 1.

Dubuque - Clarke College Players are the

first Conference members to produce I REMEMBER MAMA, May 3 and 5. Sister M. Aloysius reports "iss vonderful" fun.

Erie - Mercyhurst College will see the all-girl CAREER ANGEL, May 9 and 10.

Fort Lee - From many possibles the Gay Pretenders, Academy of Holy Angels, have chosen all-girl CAREER ANGEL for their Senior Play.

Grand Rapids - A LIKELY STORY, a CU musical, is billed for May 2 and 3 at Marywood Academy. The fable (Brady) with music (Danato) has a cast of 110 directed by Millicent McElwee.

- Walter Kerr's adaptation of THE MISER is Mercian Dramatic Club's presentation, May 10 and 12, at Mt. Mercy Academy.

Jamestown, N.D. - Senior Curtain Callers of St. John's Academy offer MIGNONETTE May 17 and 19.

Louisville - Catholic Theatre Guild closes its most successful season with RAMSHACKLE INN, May 14-15.

Minneapolis - Seniors of the Academy of the Holy Angels offer SIXTEEN IN AUGUST May 19. 21 students will attend the Mid-West Festival with Sister Charitas.

Montreal - 11 groups have entered the Cathespian Guild's 7th Annual Catholic Drama Festival. John H. McElderry of Guelph, Ont., will adjudicate the four sessions May 15-16-17-18 at Loyola College Auditorium. Three of the entries will be original one act plays.

- Loyola College Dramatic Society presents TRAITOR'S GATE, Morna Stuart's drama of St. Thomas More, May 1 thru 4.

New Bedford - EVERY FAMILY HAS ONE has been selected by Holy Family Players for May 4-5 production.

New Orleans - CAREER ANGEL, all girl, is scheduled for May 13 production by the Thalpomenians, Ursuline College.

New York - Blackfriars' busy NY Chapter gives its first performance May 16 of COME MARCHING HOME, comedy-drama and prize winner in the Overseas Division of National Theatre Conference's play writing contest for Servicemen. Showing every night except Tuesday to June 9.

- The Carroll Club Little Theatre offers all-girl CAREER ANGEL, May 9. In addition, three 1-acts will be presented at the Home for the Destitute Blind and Veterans' Hospital.

CHINESE COUNTRY CROSS STITCH - YUAN HUA CHIEN

CROSS-COUNTRY CIRCUIT - MAY and JUNE (cont. from insert)

New York (Cont.) - Father Ryan Players of Cathedral College, Brooklyn, announce the premiere of KINDLY LIGHT, May 10 at the Academy of Music.

- Fordham University's Mimes and Mummers after four years absence resume the happy tradition of one-act plays. HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS (Theatre Arts, Sept. 1945) and SUBMERGED by Cottman and Shaw comprise the bill May 26-27. A SAINT IN A HURRY, Peman's drama on St. Francis Xavier, is in rehearsal for June 7, 8, and 9. Edgar Kloten, recently released by the Navy, is directing all.

Oakland - The Elizabethans of St. Elizabeth H.S. offer DON'T TAKE MY PENNY, May 2, 3 and 4.

Philadelphia - Cap and Bells, St. Joseph College, introduce I SHALL RETURN, an original 3-act musical in which the complication of the veterans' return to college supply comedy.

Prairie du Chien - St. Mary's Academy offers for its Senior Play LITTLE WOMEN May 23. Students will participate in the Mid-West Play Festival and in Marquette University's Play Contest.

Racine - 36 St. Catherine's H.S. Players will travel to Dubuque for the Mid-West Festival for which their entry is DRUMS OF OUDE. On May 22 at a meeting of the Sodality Union of Milwaukee Archdiocese, the Players will contribute their ideas on Catholic Theatre and N.C.T.C.

Rochester, Minn. - Seniors of Lourdes H.S. offer Jean Latham's OLD DCC, May 28.

Rockford, Ill. - One of our newest members, Junior Guild of the Catholic Women's League, inaugurates its dramatic program with STARDUST by Walter Kerr.

Sharon Hill, Pa. - Gheon's THE COMEDIAN will be produced at Holy Child School, May 3 and 4.

Springfield, Ill. - The Footlight Club, Sacred Heart Academy, caps an 8-week series of 1-act plays produced and directed by students with a May party at which the three best will be reshown.

St. Joseph, Minn. - Ardeleons, College of St. Benedict, announce I REMEMBER MAMA for May production.

Tulsa - A spring fete depicting man's search for peace and the finding of it in Our Lady will be presented by Monte Cassino Masquers May 14. On May 17 Masquers-pledges offer BIRTHDAY OF THE INFANTA and HEARTS TO MEND. Fazed no whit by this schedule Sister Mary Immaculata, O.S.B., writes enthusiastic-

ally of dramatic recitals and spring. Washington - The annual original musical revue, as yet untitled, will open May 10 for three weeks run at Catholic University Theatre.

Weston, Mass. - Regis College will give the first performance of the newly cut version of STORM on May 26. For Mission Day, May 1, the Dramatic Club offers excerpts from Alfred Noyes SHERWOOD.

BROADWAY COMMENTS

by Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

CALL ME MISTER - Truly delightful revue by men and girls who have served in the Armed Forces. The music by Rome is gay and catchy, the songs have a definite appeal, and the humor is up to date and funny.

I LIKE IT HERE - Really a monologue by Oscar Karlweis because when he is off-stage the play evaporates. Mr. Karlweis is a very deft comedian.

ST. LOUIS WOMAN - Very disappointing musical with an all-negro cast. Story lacks dramatic continuity and sometimes good taste. The cakewalk is all to the good, so are the dancing by the Nicholas brothers and the songs by Pearl Bailey.

THREE TO MAKE READY - There is no doubt that Ray Bolger is one of the cleverest comedians on our stage. He and Brenda Forbes supply the super comedy here. There is one excellent song ensemble called Barnaby Beach. Two skits are rather unfortunate.

AVAILABLE? YES AND NO

I REMEMBER MAMA is "now available in areas at a remote distance from most large towns" reports Dramatists Play Service. Don't count on production until you have obtained permission from the publishers.

With the sudden termination of the professional production of THE SONG OF BERNADETTE, Dramatic Publishing Co. announces the release of rights for amateur production everywhere.

HOLLYWOOD PINAFORE, which we have been tracking down for several members, may be available sometime during the coming winter through Dramatists Play Service, but Mr. Barrett Clark assures us the title will not appear on their fall list. A new text is to be discussed with George Kaufman, and publication problems cannot be solved easily.

MARGIN NOTES

Fred Karem returned to his directing job for Catholic Theatre Guild of Louisville with the Guild's production of EMBEZZLED HEAVEN. This was the first non-professional production of the play in which Eva LeGallienne starred last year, and Mr. Karem proved it was an excellent choice. Forerunners in the Guild's season were MR. AND MRS. NORTH and CAREER ANGEL (male version).

Loras College Players report that QUEEN ESTHER was received with special praise by its Dubuque audiences, and they predict that Father Donchue's verse drama will find other producers.

Rev. Joseph Schliesmann reports that St. Peter's Dramatic Club of Beaver Dam Wisc., did its finest work to date in William Lammers' CALVARY, which was produced Mar. 31 and Apr. 1.

Theatre Arts Guild, Grand Rapids, presented FIRST LEGION Apr. 27-28 for the benefit of Aquinas College. Five from the original TAG production (1939) repeated old roles. Previously announced for January schedule, the anniversary performance was delayed to await the Army's separation from cast members.

Merici Dramatic Club, Merici H. S., Dallas, offered A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, April 25-26.

St. Leo the Great Parish Dramatic Club New Orleans, new member of the Conference, has won the Archdiocesan Senior Play Contest four years in succession in addition to producing two full length plays each season.

Word reaches us just before deadline of a one-day nationwide series of drama clinics for high schools. College Drama Departments and Community Theatres will be invited to sponsor the local meetings. General direction will be assumed by the National Thespian Society, which will also undertake national publicity, but local programs will be planned and arranged by their immediate sponsors. Any Saturday from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15, 1946, may be selected. If your college or community theatre is interested in helping the high schools in your neighborhood, let us know that we may forward your name to Ernest Bavelly who will send you further information.

Catholic Theatre Guild of Richmond bought new equipment for the publication of its monthly "Informat." If you'd like to sample a neat and clearly legible

newsletter with drawings, write the Guild at East 3 and Broad Sts., Richmond 19, Virginia. Father O'Kane will be happy to exchange newsletters with any Conference group.

Emmet Lavery, former NCTC Chairman and ever enthusiastic member, is currently campaigning for the congressional seat as representative of the 16th Congressional District, California.

St. Mary's High School of Wilkes-Barre presented EVER SINCE EVE April 25-26. Representatives of the group will attend the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting at NY.

Sacred Heart Academy, Wichita, was hostess to the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Wichita Diocesan Unit of NCTC. Presentation of a 3-act play opened the sessions Friday evening, Apr. 26; Saturday was given to round table discussion, teaching demonstrations and one-act plays with a dinner conference to plan regional activity for next year. Sunday evening's Catholic Action Dinner was preceded by round table discussion for clergy and parish delegates; "Modern Drama, the Church's Oldest and Rustiest Weapon" was the subject of Rev. K. G. Schroeder's dinner address; the Most Reverend Christian H. Winkelmann closed the session.

Correction for April's Cross-Country Circuit: Rev. Eugene Nolan is the author and director of ON THE ROAD TO CALVARY, but Rev. Raymond Morgan is the Director of Queen of Peace Players, NCTC member group.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Maryknoll has generously donated 3 copies of THE ETERNAL WAY, a dramatization of the story of Fatima in prologue 7 scenes and epilogue with verse choir and 12 speaking parts. CADDIE WOODLAWN stage adaptation of the popular children's story, has been published by Macmillan for young players (3 acts).

RADIO REPORTER IN JERUSALEM, a Passion Play for radio published by Sheed & Ward has been purchased for the library. Belatedly we have also added a copy of Father Gannon's excellent TECHNIQUE OF THE ONE-ACT PLAY. From Props and Paint comes the rare and welcome gift of a copy of Gheon's THE MARVELOUS HISTORY OF ST. BERNARD.

